

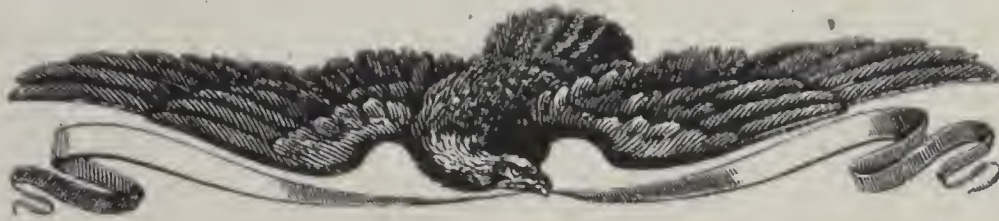
---

JOURNAL OF THE  
**BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

---

Volume 21

Number 4



**2010**

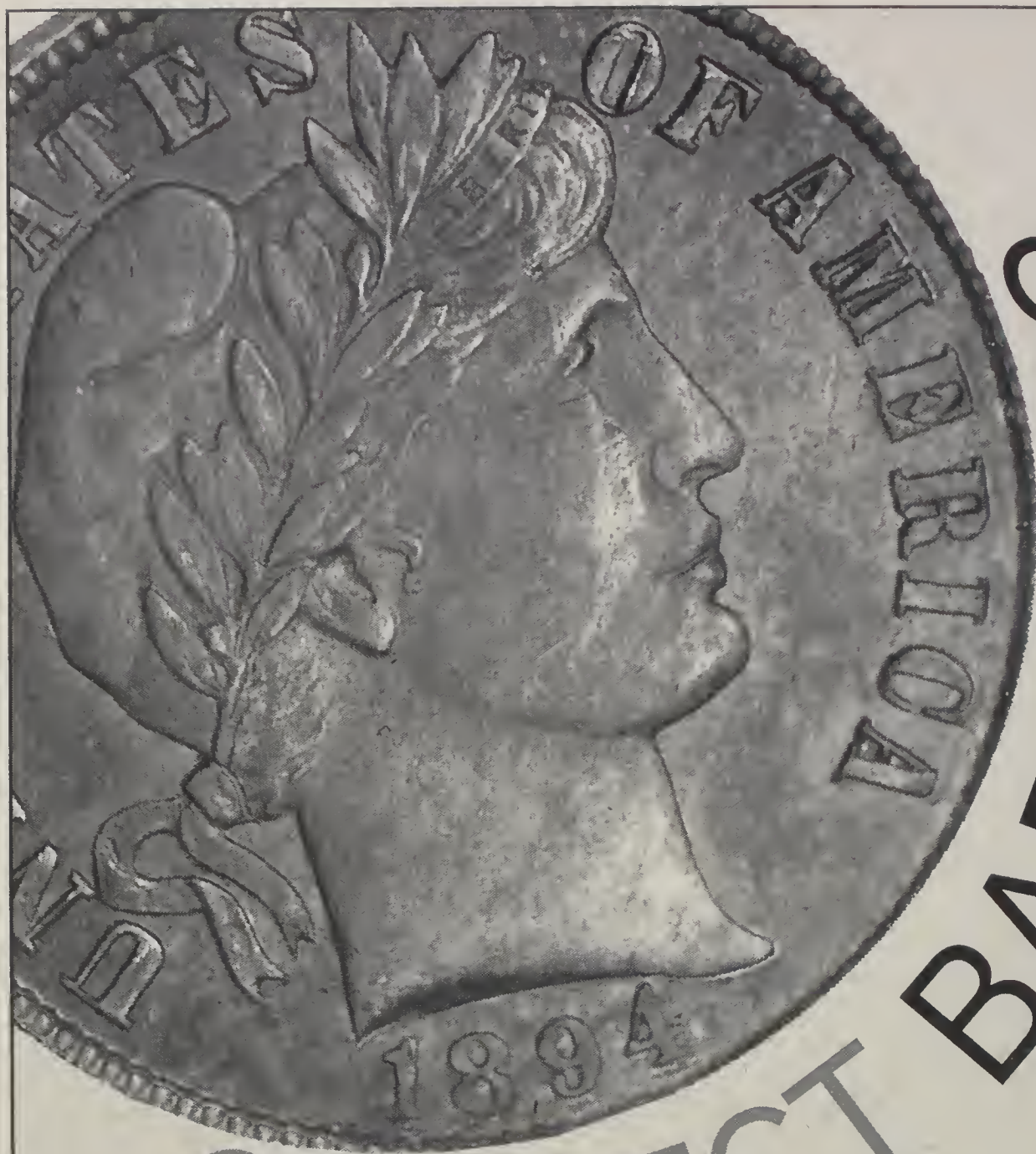
**1892 Liberty Head Nickel**



**Missing six stars**

**See page 6**

*Photo: January 2008 Numismatist, page 83.*



# COLLECT BARBERS?



**For 30 years**, we've been regarded as industry experts in all Barber coin series. If you collect Barbers, or want to know more about them, contact us today or visit our web site for current offerings

## GET TO KNOW DAVID LAWRENCE



**David Lawrence**

RARE COINS • CURRENCY • STAMPS

Advancing the Art of Collecting

PO Box 9174 • Virginia Beach, VA 23450 • 1-800-776-0560 • fax: 866-581-2254 • [info@davidlawrence.com](mailto:info@davidlawrence.com) • [www.davidlawrence.com](http://www.davidlawrence.com)



---

JOURNAL OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

---

Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein  
ANA Club Member C-146266

### OFFICERS

Philip Carrigan.....*President*  
Eileen Ribar.....*Editor, Secretary/Treasurer*  
Steve Hustad.....*Variety Coordinator*  
Rich Dula.....*Contributing Editor*  
Paul Kluth.....*Contributing Editor*

---

### ADDRESSES

John Frost, Webmaster: <http://www.BarberCoins.org>

For articles, submitting coins to be photographed, information for Barber Bits, Letters to the Editor, advertisements, layouts, etc.: Eileen Ribar, 2053 Edith Pl., Merrick, NY 11566; Tel. 516-379-4681; Email: [emcrib@optonline.net](mailto:emcrib@optonline.net)

For variety information, questions and comments: Steve Hustad, contact information will be in the Spring 2011 Journal

For membership dues (\$15 per year; Canadian residents \$20), information about the BCCS and back issues of the Journal (\$3.50, members \$2.50): Eileen Ribar, 2053 Edith Pl., Merrick, NY 11566; Tel. 516-379-4681; Email: [emcrib@optonline.net](mailto:emcrib@optonline.net)

For BCCS issues in general: Philip Carrigan, 1944 Ash St., Waukegan, IL 60087; Tel. 847-625-0381; Fax: 847/599-1071; Email: [philrph1892@cs.com](mailto:philrph1892@cs.com)

---

### CONTENTS

Page 4.....BCCS President's Message  
Page 5.....BCCS Editor's Message  
Page 7....."We All Have Memories of Our Favorite Dates!" by Steve Hustad  
Page 10...."Barbers: A Personal Connection" by Rich Dula  
Page 12...."Daisy or the Liberty Nickels" by Matthew Student  
Page 13....Barber Bits  
Page 17...."Barber Design Reigned on Quarters for 25 Years" by R.W. Julian  
Page 22....BCCS Statement of Purpose



## BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This message and this issue of our *Journal* close the 2010 year. The Barber Society is stable with a fine publication coupled with an on-time delivery to our members thanks to Editor Eileen Ribar. John Frost, our Webmaster, provides us with an on-line presence second to no other collector group. John additionally convenes Barber collectors at several regional shows during the year.

What do we presently need? The position of Variety Coordinator has been vacant since the death of Steve Szczerbiak. Effective immediately, Steve Hustad will assume responsibility for reporting and assessing Barber varieties along with assisting members with their variety questions. Steve's interest in this aspect allows him to assume this position with keen interest and significant knowledge.

For the past few years, I've been interested in how our members obtain Barber coins for their collections. Past BCCS renewal forms have included a question or two probing this area, but low participation produced little data. I've asked Eileen this year to try again with some low-key, general choices of how our members add new material to their collections. Trust me, I don't wish to know of the dealer(s) who has all the Barber dates in superb condition for half price or less! I expect we will all benefit seeing how individual collectors find coins they need.

I usually have a few neat auction items tied to Barbers, but I don't have anything for this issue. While many members may have all major numismatic houses bookmarked, newer collectors may hesitate to go to a website, register, and view lots. I'll compile this information for the next issue.

May all our members have enjoyable and safe holidays, and consider talking coins to a 10+ year old child.

Numismatic regards,

Phil Carrigan



## BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Tucked inside this issue you will find a flyer announcing the entries in our annual Literary Contest. Please take a few minutes to look over the articles listed (some can be found in this issue) and vote for the one(s) you enjoyed the most. Remember, to have your vote count, please email or mail in your ballot by March 1st. Winners will be announced in the Vol. 22, No. 1 *Journal*.

Those of you whose BCCS membership is about to expire will also find a 2011 membership renewal form enclosed. As on this past year's membership renewal form, a space is provided for your ANA member number. Last year ANA increased its member club annual dues from \$36 to \$75. To offset this increase, ANA reduces a club's annual dues by \$5 for each club member (limit 15) who is also an ANA member. To be given the discount, the club must include its members' ANA membership numbers with the ANA dues form. Thanks to those who provided their ANA membership number on last year's BCCS dues form, our 2010 ANA club membership dues was free. Since not everyone has Internet access, adding space for ANA numbers on the annual BCCS dues form provides another option to participate. It is strictly optional.

I suppose there is a small percentage of Barber coin collectors who are concerned solely with their potential monetary value, but I believe the majority of us, over the years, have formed a very personal connection to these beautiful silver coins, some of which, for one reason or another, have a special significance for us. We can remember exactly when or where or how we obtained a particular one. A number of us have had them handed down to us by parents, grandparents, or fondly remembered relatives. Besides their personal histories, Barber coins have their own

### THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FEB. 25th**

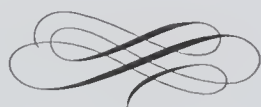


---

place in America's history.

The articles in this issue nicely intertwine the personal and the historical sides of the Barbers. BCCS members Matthew Vincent, Rich Dula and Steve Hus-tad share some personal stories about their Barber collections while *Numismatic News* columnist R.W. Julian gives us insight into the history of the Barber design, particularly the clashes and the compromises between the personalities involved. I think you will enjoy every one of them and hope that they may inspire you to write of your own experiences collecting Barbers.

In closing, I wish each and every one of you much joy, good health and prosperity in the New Year!



## Cover Photo

In the January 2008 *Numismatist* ["Out of the Vault," page 83], ANA's Edward C. Rochette Money Museum collections manager Robin Sisler showcased five interesting error specimens he examined. Among them was this 1892 Barber designed Liberty Head Nickel. Below is the write-up accompanying the photo.

### Starless

This U.S. 1892 Liberty or "V" nickel is struck from a unique, filled die. Six stars from 8 to 12 o'clock are completely filled, and the denticles around the entire perimeter are intact. In addition, there is a single, fully struck star at 7:30. Under high magnification, the inner edge of each "missing" star can be made out in the field to the left of Miss Liberty. This coin exhibits severe die wear and die breaks, both of which commonly are seen when dies are on their last legs.



---

# We All Have Memories of Our Favorite Dates!

By Steve Hustad

No, I don't mean the kind like when we were in high school and the girl we really liked in biology class finally agreed to go out with us (much to her regret no doubt!). I mean those certain dates/mints of Barber coins that give us that special feeling (or give us "that lovin' feeling," to quote the Everly Brothers). These are usually coins with no other special understood significance; they're not necessarily the scarce dates, or the long sought after over-punched mintmark coins. What I'm referring to are those coins in our collections that hold a special memory for us, attached to a nice feeling we had, or an experience that was particularly enjoyable. I'll relate a few of my own. Maybe other members could write something of their own for the rest of us to enjoy and go, "Yeah, I had a really similar feeling just like that I'd forgotten about!" So here we go...

I've written about this one before: 1911 – Nothing really special about this year in Barber coinage, mostly very common pieces, though the 1911 D & S quarters I think are somewhat scarce in nice, problem-free, middle grades. But 1911 was the first complete three piece year set I bought when I was about 15 years old and first became infatuated and amazed that I could actually own something that old and cool for my own collection.

Lawn mowing money went into those first three 1911 coins in Good condition: a Philadelphia Mint dime, quarter & half dollar. Those coins stayed in my collection for twenty years, and every time I looked at them (or have even thought about them since), it has brought back warm, very pleasurable memories. And that's what this is all about, right? Nothing else was rare or otherwise special about any of those pieces.

The 1899-O Dime – Okay, this one isn't exactly common in decent condition, but it's not exactly a series key either. This one is special for a different reason. It reminds me of one of the best coin shows I've ever been to. Not a big national affair with all the famous large dealers we're all aware of, but a local show in a hotel's meeting room. I was around thirty at the time and was just getting back

---

into collecting coins. Barbers still held a certain draw for me above the other Mercuries & Buffaloes, etc., and I still had my first 1911 trio. I was looking to expand and upgrade my dime collection.

While looking through ring binder after ring binder of well-worn Barbers (this MUST sound familiar to all of us, right?), on the tenth or eleventh page of the third or fourth binder of Good and About Good common date Barbers, I noticed an 1899-O in problem-free VF-30 at least. What was THIS doing here? It had great natural dark golden toning, very attractive, and maybe it just stood out in contrast to all the dogs surrounding it, but that coin was special and still triggers nice thoughts. That one is still in my collection. Good memories.

The 1911-D Quarter - Yes, back to 1911 again, this time with the D mint quarters. When I was near the end of my college term, and again renewing my activity in coin collecting (do we all go through periods of apathy followed by periods of renewal? Maybe that's a topic for another article?), I came across an ad in a coin magazine. This ad offered a roll of Barber quarters in "average circulated condition" for what I thought at the time was an attractive price. Well, again being full of refreshed 'newly minted' (sorry) enthusiasm, I sent away for this roll thinking I could fill some holes in my collection cheaply and have some fun trading off the duplicates, too. I also just loved the idea of looking through coins and the thought of 40 coins that were randomly provided held that mystery and excitement only collectors can understand.

The small paper slip arrived in my dorm room's mailbox telling me I had a package to pick up. Excitement! So, after a trip to the post office, I got back to my dorm room, nervously and expectantly unwrapped my new stash, and went through each coin separately, which quickly became no big deal as one well-worn 1902 followed a slightly damaged slick 1909, and so on... a realization of dashed high expectations fueled by that enthusiasm I mentioned, instead of by logic. Regret was beginning to set in. But then the 1911 D popped up in all its dark toned F-12 glory! Wow! An attractive, not so common piece in a nice grade with dark toning – and it's ATTRACTIVE toning too! How did THIS get in here? This one's memories are rooted in its inherent attractiveness, coupled with the pleasant surprise of finding it in a group of 'lesser others' when it was totally unexpected. I did sell this one later when Dave Lawrence helped me upgrade, but I can still see it clearly in my mind and recall it often.



---

The 1896 Quarter – This was my very first mail order purchase from Dave Lawrence back in April of 1984. I still have this Philadelphia Mint coin, the very first of many from Dave that followed over a lot of years. A common date, large mintage, and even in nice problem-free VF, no scarcity, but this is one of those coins that attained a ‘retro-active’ appeal and special place in my collection and memory for obvious reasons. I’m sure many reading this right now know exactly the first coin they bought from Dave and cherish the coin still for the same reasons.

The 1907 Half Dollar – My mystery coin. It’s a mystery in my collection because I have no idea or recollection of where this coin came from, what I paid for it, or when I obtained it! I’m always very diligent about recording such things immediately, but this one slipped past my usual OCD traits. It’s a nice, attractive coin in Fine-12+ condition, but where’s it from? A gift from a relative maybe when I was younger, or a ‘random find’ from somewhere else? Who knows? But these unknowns induce a large part of its appeal, too. This one always causes a head shaking wonder of ‘where, how, and when?’

I think that’s enough for now. There are many others, but these stand out for me the most in the three main Barber series. No earth-shaking rarities or super condition pieces, just all very fond memories.



## BCCS “blind” Email List

The BCCS web service has the capability to send messages using a “Blind Carbon Copy” setting, which means everyone on the list gets the email, but nobody’s email address is displayed. The advantages to having such a list include the ability to post last-minute BCCS get-togethers at regional shows and other types of Society communications, if needed, without having to wait for the next issue of the *Journal*. It is completely voluntary, and is open to members only. If you wish to be on this list, please send an email to: [BCCS@BarberCoins.org](mailto:BCCS@BarberCoins.org) and your name will be added. Your information will not be disclosed to anyone, and you will only receive email regarding BCCS business from the BCCS email account.

---

# Barbers: A Personal Connection

By **Rich Dula**, BCCS #224

As I am writing this article, I am on vacation in the magnificent White Mountains area in northern New Hampshire. The fall color in spots is simply fantastic. I cannot help but think of a phrase Dr. Sheldon used in his book *Penny Whimsy* in regard to the old large cents (1793 – 1814): “Look at a handful of the cents dated before 1815, when they contained relatively pure copper. You see rich shades of green, red, brown, yellow and even deep ebony; together with blending of these not elsewhere matched in nature, save perhaps in Autumn leaves.” Who else but a coin collector can look at the impressive fall foliage color and think of coins?

Having time to reflect on my collecting interests, I have come to realize I have a personal connection with the Barber dimes, quarters, and half dollars. No matter how my collecting interests have changed over the years, I have always come back to the silver Barber coinage. My connection to Barber coins began over 100 years ago. Both sets of my grandparents came to America during the early 1900's. The then current coinage of course included the silver Barber dimes, quarters and half dollars. Holding one of these coins in my hand today is a link to my grandparents. This is probably some of the first coinage they encountered, and while unlikely, there is the possibility that some of my Barber coins could have passed through their hands as well.

Around 1960 I became interested in collecting coins. I had always liked the Buffalo Nickels and Walking Liberty Halves and saved as many as I could, but since the half dollars had real purchasing power back then, I was not able to put aside very many. At a local bowling alley there were coin change machines, as most of various games could be played for a nickel or dime (even a quarter could buy quite a bit back then). Once, I received an extremely well-worn dime from one of these machines with a design that I was not familiar with. It turned out to be a 1901 Barber dime with the reverse almost completely worn away. As an eight year old, I had never suspected that the coins I used had ever had any designs other than what were in everyday circulation at the time. This old, well-worn 1901 dime is



---

what really introduced me to older obsolete U.S. coinage and inspired me to seriously collect coins.

In the late 1980's there was a dealer at local coin shows who always had boxes of Barber dimes, quarters and half dollars for sale. This availability of so many different dates and mintmarks convinced me to continue my sets of Barber coins. About the same time, the Barber Coin Collectors Society appeared (which I joined) and Dave Lawrence was publishing his great books on Barber dimes, quarters and half dollars.

For the next several years I continued to purchase coins I needed by mail order until I began to continually return coins as the mail order coin dealers forgot to mention in their ads things like scratches, rim dents, harsh cleaning, etc., although they did remember to charge full price. So, for a period of about five years, I was not able to acquire much for my collection as there were very few Barber coins available locally.

Ten years ago I discovered eBay. I viewed Barber coins offered and saw this as a good possibility to resume buying coins for my collection. Most important to me was the fact that there were scans/pictures of the coins for sale. This pretty much solved the problem of returning coins as pictures don't lie. In fact, I've only had to return 4 or 5 coins in the past decade while purchasing hundreds of coins on eBay.

During the last decade, I have been able to continue upgrading my Barber coin sets thanks in large part to eBay. I also rejoined BCCS and have been writing articles for BCCS the past several years. In regard to writing articles, Dr Sheldon stated that the reason he wrote *Penny Whimsy* was because he always wanted to read a book like *Penny Whimsy*, but none existed. This inspired me to try my hand at writing articles for our Journal. I pick topics that have interested me with the hope others might enjoy them as well. I have been involved in coin collecting for 50 years now and have derived untold hours of pleasure and enjoyment from it. Hopefully, the same is true for everyone reading this article.



---

# Daisy or the Liberty Nickels

By Matthew Student

My membership in the BCCS has both instructed me in the fine points of die differences and also the emotional highs that are enjoyed (YES, ENJOYED!) by different members.

This story is not about obtaining a long sought-after coin. It is about a decision made by my father back in the early 1950s. Dad was born in 1916 and married my mom in 1949. Soon after, my parents were expecting me and money was as tight as it is today. Aha! That explains why he stopped buying new issues from the Post Office in 1950.

Dad steadfastly refused to buy coins. His coin collection was made up solely of coins he found or traded for.

But again, that is not the reason for this story. Dad also was a hunter. He and his younger brother Peter would hunt in the yet undeveloped parts of Ansonia, CT. Thanks to their sister, my Aunt Helen, I learned that my dad and Uncle Peter would skin the rabbits and squirrels before my Aunt Mary and Aunt Helen had to cook them for dinner. (My dad and uncle *were* thoughtful.)

The beagle is a fine hunting dog for rabbits and squirrels. When I was two years old and my sister was one, my father had the opportunity to buy a full blooded beagle. He bought it.

HE PAID 15 DOLLARS IN LIBERTY NICKELS FOR THE BEAGLE!

What possessed my father to do this? It must have taken him a long time to assemble so many Liberty Nickels. He loved his coins, but he also loved hunting. He had a wife and two kids.

I guess my question is: What possesses a lover of Barber coins to start to



---

sell them?

The greater question is: Without heirs who understand coins, what are *my* options? A while back Eileen Ribar and I spoke of the problem. If I am not mistaken, there was an article put out by David Lawrence that said, "Save your heirs the problem... Sell off your coins while you are still alive."

But I LOVE the Barber coins! I am teaching my poor sister about my collection. She is getting very good at judging the pics that I send to her. She now realizes that careful coin purchases are a good investment.

By the way, Daisy WAS a very good dog!



## Barber Bits

### BCCS Journal Back Issues Discount for Members Only

As the *Journal* wraps up its 21st year in print, we are offering BCCS members the opportunity to obtain back issues at discounted savings. Unfortunately, of the 84 original issues, only 73 are available and several of them are in very limited supply.

You can order: 1 to 25 issues @ \$2.00 each  
26 to 50 issues @ \$1.50 each  
51 to 73 issues @ \$1.25 each

Please contact Eileen by phone, mail or email if you are interested in purchasing one or several back issues. You can request specific ones or a certain number starting with the earliest available or with the most recent counting backward. Again, there are very few of certain issues left so please act quickly as it will be first come, first serve.

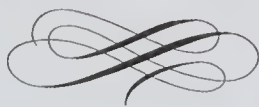


## Barber Barter

Barber Barter is available as a service to any BCCS member at no cost. Its purpose is for trading Barber coins only. Ads are limited to 50 words.

Wanted: 1908-S Barber Quarter in XF45-AU58 condition. Coin must be original and problem-free. Email or phone 2-8 p.m. weekdays or on the weekend. Doug Veal. Email: [dav110857@aol.com](mailto:dav110857@aol.com) Phone: 319-447-1891

Wanted: 1914-S Barber Quarter in XF45-AU58 condition. Coin must be original and problem-free. Email or phone 2-8 p.m. weekdays or on the weekend. Doug Veal. Email: [dav110857@aol.com](mailto:dav110857@aol.com) Phone: 319-447-1891



## BCCS Meeting at the F.U.N. Show

If you will be at the 2011 F.U.N. Show, plan to attend the BCCS meeting hosted by John Frost on Friday, Jan. 7th at 3:00 p.m. in Room 7 at the Tampa Convention Center.

John will be happy to meet you and you will enjoy lots of talk about Barbers with fellow collectors.



## Dave Lawrence Barber Books now On-line at DLRC Website

John Feigenbaum is to be commended for continuing his father, David Lawrence's legacy of support for the coin collector. Thanks to John's generosity, all three of David Lawrence's Barber coin books - *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes*, *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*, and *The Complete Guide to Barber Halves*, as well as *The Complete Guide to Certified Barber Coinage* by David Lawrence & John Feigenbaum - are available at the David Lawrence Rare Coins free on-line library website: <http://www.stellacoinnews.com/>. Simply click on "Reference Books" and scroll down to the book title you want. Access is totally free, no membership required.





As shown in a recent Heritage brochure, the following Barber coins will be in the Heritage auction at the F.U.N. Show in Tampa, FL Jan. 5-9, 2011:

1892-O Half Micro O MS65 NGC	1901-S Quarter MS67 NGC
1892-S Half MS64 NGC	1902 Half MS66 NGC
1893 Half MS66 PCGS, CAC	1902-S Half MS67 NGC
1896 Half MS66 PCGS	1903-O Half MS66 NGC
1896-O Quarter MS68 NGC	1904-O Half MS65 PCGS
1896-S Quarter MS66 NGC	1904-S Half MS67 NGC
1897 Half MS66 PCGS	1905-O Half MS67 PCGS, CAC
1898-S Half MS65 NGC	1907-D Half MS66 PCGS, CAC
1900 Half MS66 PCGS, CAC	1907-O Half MS66 PCGS
1901-O Half MS66 NGC	1910 Half PR67 Cameo NGC
1901-S Half MS67 NGC	



FYI: The ANA library is accessible to all ANA members. The Dwight N. Manley Library offers more than 30,000 books, 30,000 auction catalogs, magazines and hundreds of videos – delivered for the cost of postage. To check them out, phone 1-719-482-9821 or e-mail [library@money.org](mailto:library@money.org).



### THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FEB. 25th**

These two Barber dimes were submitted by long-time BCCS member **Ralph Vignola** to be photographed and shared with fellow members by way of our *Journal*.

This one is a 1903-S dime that exhibits a possible S/S mintmark.



Below is Ralph's 1892-S Barber dime that displays a classic example of mechanical doubling. As explained in the last *Journal*, mechanical doubling, also known as ejection doubling, machine doubling, strike doubling, and shift doubling, is very common. Its primary characteristic is the flat, shelf-like appearance of the secondary image. You owe it to yourself to recognize the difference between mechanical doubling and true doubled dies as mechanical doubling is very common and, for that reason, its value should be minimal.





# Barber Design Reigned on Quarters for 25 Years

By **R.W. Julian**

In the 1950s, little attention was paid to the Barber silver coins of 1892-1916. They were quite common and, for those who were interested, better-grade coins and proofs were easily obtained at a reasonable cost. Today, of course, the situation has changed dramatically and Barber coins are strongly collected.

The long-running Seated Liberty design was first struck for the quarter dollar for the fall of 1838. During the 1870s, Mint Director Henry R. Linderman took steps to introduce new artwork, one of the reasons that engraver George T. Morgan was brought over from England. Unfortunately, Linderman's plans were derailed by an unexpected event.

During the American Civil War of 1861-1865, a nervous Northern public hoarded all of the silver and gold coins that could be found. Many of these silver coins, for various reasons, were exported to Canada and Central America for use in their economies, leaving only paper money for the Union states. In late 1877, however, to the surprise of nearly everyone, much of the exported silver coinage suddenly returned in large quantities.

So much of the old coinage came back that the U.S. marketplace was flooded with silver coins. The government in 1873 had finally managed to put silver back in use and, until 1877, coinages had been extremely heavy. The addition of this new windfall was more than the banking system could absorb and most of the excess flowed into Treasury vaults. The government responded by shutting off minor silver coinage until such time as the surplus evaporated.

The hoard of dimes was the first to go. This coinage resumed in 1882 at Philadelphia and in 1884 at San Francisco, but quarter and half dollars still filled the Treasury vaults as late as 1890. There was a coinage at San Francisco in 1888 of 1.2 million quarters but this was due to a regional shortage. It must have been an odd sensation for a bank to order coins from the Treasury in the late 1880s and receive back silver pieces minted in the 1850s.

---

Early in 1891, Subtreasury employees in the East saw their hoard of quarters becoming exhausted and orders were given to the Philadelphia Mint to resume coinage. Half dollars followed a few months later and by late in 1891 all minor silver coins were being struck in quantity for the first time since early 1878.

The massive influx of silver in 1877 had forced the Mint Bureau to shelve any idea of minor silver coinage redesign for the time being. However, towards the end of the 1880s when all knew that the surplus was undergoing depletion, steps were taken to change the artwork. Although not well thought out, Director of the Mint James P. Kimball in April 1887 set in motion the long process toward a new design.

On April 9, Kimball issued a circular letter to American artists, inviting them to submit designs for the U.S. subsidiary coinage. Kimball did not consult the officers at the Philadelphia Mint in advance and the Mint engraving staff simply ignored the contest. Kimball also set too short a time for submissions so outside artists ignored him as well. On April 15, the circular was abruptly withdrawn.

Although Kimball had failed in his redesign effort, the point was not lost on Chief Engraver Charles Barber. In September 1890, Barber wrote the new Mint director, Edward Owen Leech, suggesting that steps be taken to introduce new designs. The director replied that nothing could be done until the spring of 1891 due to certain lengthy reports that had yet to be completed, including an important one on U.S. mining affairs.

Leech was as good as his word. On April 4, 1891, he issued a circular to artists of the United States inviting them to submit designs for minor silver coins. Because of flaws in the rules, however, the Mint engraving staff again refused to participate although a few entries were submitted from private artists.

How many submissions were made is not known, but all were rejected by a special committee chaired by the famous sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens that met on June 3. The problem was now back at Leech's doorstep.

On June 11, the director wrote Philadelphia Mint Superintendent Oliver C. Bosbyshell asking that the engraving staff prepare designs for the subsidiary silver coinage. He also spelled out precisely what he wanted in the way of motifs. In particular, he ordered a head of Liberty to be based on that appearing on French bronze and silver coins. In addition, Leech decreed that the reverse of the quarter and half dollar was to bear the Great Seal of the United States.

Bosbyshell, after consulting with the engraving staff (Chief Engraver Bar-



---

ber, George Morgan and William H. Key), wrote Leech in mid-June that the director should visit Philadelphia for a personal discussion. Everyone at Philadelphia felt that this would result in better work. The superintendent also suggested that the whole affair be kept quiet, as the outside artists had already had their chance in the recent public competition. Leech did not accept the latter suggestion, however, and the general secrecy did not last long.

Leech visited the Philadelphia Mint more than once and examined designs prepared by Barber, Morgan and Key. On July 25, after considering the work done to date, the director chose Charles Barber to design the new silver coinage for 1892.

Over the next several weeks Barber worked on the new designs, with Leech occasionally visiting the Mint to keep a close watch on the progress. From time to time Barber also sent plaster models of the latest changes. Generally speaking, all went well, but there were times when there were problems. One of these came in early October when Leech decided to critique the latest models.

The director criticized the reverse design in particular and noted that the figure of the eagle did not correspond with the current U.S. Great Seal die then in use by the State Department. In particular, he did not approve of the scroll which contained the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM passing over the neck of the eagle. Leech also did not like the arrangement of the olive branch and Bosbyshell was ordered to confer with Barber on the necessary revisions.

Barber answered criticism by noting that "I am quite ready and willing to make any change in design provided the suggestion, in my mind, is a good one, but I must ask that the criticism come to an end before I am too far advanced with the die." He also noted that he had used the original 1782 Great Seal, not the revised version. In a covering letter, Bosbyshell unwisely seconded Barber's complaints and said that "I join with Mr. Barber in urging that a limit be reached in criticism."

The letters from Philadelphia did not go over well in Washington, to put it mildly. On October 5, the director wrote that "I beg to say that the only limit which will be placed on such criticism will be the final adoption of the design. My purpose in the suggestions and criticisms which I have offered is to get as perfect a work as possible, and if any number of dies have been prepared or are in process of preparation, any change, however slight, that would in my judgement improve the design, I should have it made. I do not like this spirit which resents criticism and suggestions in regard to the work of the mints. All criticism and suggestions which are actuated by a kindly spirit and which may have the tendency to beautify

---

our coins, instead of being resented, or any time limit placed upon them, should be most cheerfully received and due consideration given to their merits.” The director had made his point, and further instructions were carried out to the letter.

By the end of October 1891, there were several variations on the central motifs, all struck as pattern half dollars. The director clearly had his favorite but, to be on the safe side, they were sent to the Treasury secretary, who in turn asked President Benjamin Harrison to become involved. The President then decided that the entire cabinet should make the final choice, which was done on November 5.

In sending Barber the decision of the President and his cabinet, Leech noted that slight changes were requested. In particular, the engraver was asked, if there was sufficient time, to strengthen the letters in E PLURIBUS UNUM and LIBERTY.

Once these instructions were received in Philadelphia, the engraving staff began preparing the needed working dies for the branch mints of San Francisco and New Orleans, as well as for the parent mint. None was prepared for Carson City, which had not struck quarter dollars since 1878, and would in fact be closed as a mint in 1893.

The striking of the Barber coinage began at the Philadelphia Mint at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 2, 1892. According to the superintendent, the dies for all three denominations were used all day without any problems. The sense of euphoria, however, did not last all that long. Complaints were received soon after coinage commenced. The new quarter dollars would not stack evenly because the head extended above the protecting border rim.

Barber examined the new coins and decided that for once the criticism was valid and soon executed a revised obverse hub. According to a statement he made to the director, the chief engraver had increased the width of the border and decreased the radius circle which contained the words IN GOD WE TRUST. The stars were also moved closer to the center of the coin. It took several weeks for these changes to be made because the work was so delicate. In due course, the new dies were furnished to the other mints and Philadelphia.

The reverse hub also was altered at the same time, although Barber did not mention this fact in his letters. These new reverse dies may be easily distinguished by noting that, on the first type, the eagle’s wing covers only about half of the letter “E” in UNITED. On the second variety, most of the “E” is covered.

The majority of the Barber quarter dollars of the 1890s may be found with



reasonable ease by the collector, though not always in the highest grades, for low prices. Some of the pieces, on the other hand, such as the 1896-S, with less than 190,000 coined, have long been known as rare coins. In XF-40, for example, this coin has a book value of \$4,300, if it can be found.

Due to difficulties in bringing up the design on the quarter dollar struck from 1892 to 1900, the chief engraver executed a third obverse hub for this denomination in 1900. However, the coiner at San Francisco took exception to the new dies and requested that he be allowed to use the pre-1900 version. It seems that a much thinner coin was produced from the 1900 hub and, in a pile of coins, 21 of the new equaled 20 of the old. The request was denied on the perfectly reasonable grounds that all mints had to be using the same dies.

With the turn of the century in 1901, the San Francisco Mint found that it needed to strike only a few quarters for the entire year, some 72,664 pieces to be exact. This tiny mintage has long been sought by serious numismatists and, in XF-40, the book value is just short of \$21,500. Even in a lowly G-4, one can expect to pay about \$5,750, a price not for the faint of heart.

Except for the 1901-S, most quarter dollars struck through 1912 are readily available though a few, such as the 1905-O, are considered scarce. The final years of the Barber designs are marked by coins of great rarity, 1913-S, alongside those that are extremely common, 1916-D. The latter coin is the most common of the entire series and could be taken from circulation as late as the early 1950s. Even the 1916 coins from Philadelphia (less than two million produced) are relatively common.

In 1915, the decision was taken by the Treasury, at the prompting of President Woodrow Wilson, to change the designs on the minor silver coins. In late 1916, the first of the Standing Liberty quarters was struck, thus ending the 25-year reign of the Barber designs.

\*\*\*\*\*

Editor's note: The following chart gives a comparison of the prices quoted for the dates, mintmarks, and grades mentioned in R.W. Julian's September 20, 2005 article and those given in the November 2010 Numismatic News "Coin Market."

September 2005 article	November 2010 "Coin Market"
1896-S in XF-40 at \$4,300.00	\$4,650.00
1901-S in XF-40 at \$21,500.00	\$30,000.00
" in G-4 at \$5,750.00	\$6,250.00

# Barber Coin Collectors' Society

1. Promotes the writing and sharing of information on Barber coins to an organization of individuals who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the series; for Society purposes, Barber coins are defined as primarily U.S. dimes, quarters and half dollars designed by Charles E. Barber, and minted from 1892 to 1916.
2. Gives Barber hobbyists an opportunity to contact other collectors with similar numismatic interests.
3. Can promote consistent grading standards among collectors, dealers, society members and non-members alike.
4. Through group purchasing power, can offer its members discounts on numismatic materials relating especially to the collecting of Barber coins.
5. Provides members a means to trade their Barbers with other members, in an effort to upgrade or complete their collection.
6. Effectively lobbies numismatic shows and events to provide Barber exhibits and space for all Barber dealers to sell their merchandise.
7. Promotes the collecting of Barbers and the hobby in general to today's youngsters.
8. Offers benefit to all Barber collectors, whether they collect Barber dimes, quarters or halves, graded AG or MS65+.
9. Makes sure its members have a say in the organization.
10. Is a not-for-profit organization dedicated solely to the benefit of its members and those who assist the Society in advancing its purpose.



# **“QUALITY BARBERS FROM JACK BEYMER”**



*Call or write us today for  
the coins you need.*

**Jack H. Beymer**

Phone: 707-544-1621

737 West Coddington Center

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Store Hours: 10 AM to 6 PM Mon-Sat

E-MAIL: [beymerjh@sonic.net](mailto:beymerjh@sonic.net)

## **WE BUY AND SELL BARBER HALVES • QUARTERS • DIMES**

One of America's leading coin dealers offering a sizable assortment of hard-to-find Halves, Quarters, and Dimes to Barber collectors seeking quality materials. Send us your want list. We are always in the market to buy whatever coins you have to sell. Write or phone Dennis Steinmetz with your description.

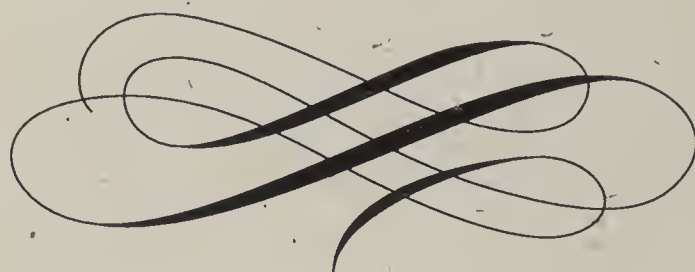
### **Steinmetz Coins & Currency, Inc.**

**350 Centerville Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601**

**717-299-1211**

**800-334-3903**

**Member: NGC • PCGS • ANA • PNG**



### **BCCS Advertisement Rates**

1/8 page	1 issue.....\$12	4 issues.....\$40
1/4 page	1 issue.....\$20	4 issues.....\$70
1/2 page	1 issue.....\$30	4 issues.....\$100
1 page	1 issue.....\$70	4 issues.....\$250
1 page inside front - rear cover	1 issue..\$80	4 issues.....\$300
1 page outside rear cover	1 issue...\$125	4 issues.....\$400